



# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Richfield, Minnesota

## Special City Council Worksession

February 24, 2015

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Goettel at 5:45 p.m. in the Bartholomew Room.

*Council Members Present:* Debbie Goettel, Mayor; Michael Howard; Pat Elliott; Edwina Garcia; and Tom Fitzhenry.

*Staff Present:* Steven L. Devich, City Manager; Mike Eastling, Public Works Director; Jay Henthorne, Public Safety Director; Kristin Asher, Assistant Public Works Director; Jeff Pearson, Transportation Engineer; and Cheryl Krumholz, Executive Coordinator.

<b>Item # 1</b>	<b>DISCUSSION REGARDING 66<sup>TH</sup> STREET INTERSECTIONS (COUNCIL MEMO NO. 16)</b>
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Public Works Director Eastling, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Asher and Transportation Engineer Pearson discussed the performance of roundabouts along 66<sup>th</sup> Street at Lyndale Avenue, Nicollet Avenue and I-35W interchange with pedestrian activated warning devices at crosswalks. Discussion included the roundabout performance in Carmel, IN specifically related to pedestrians and bicyclists, update on responses from property owners in the 66<sup>th</sup> Street and Lyndale and Nicollet Avenue impacted intersections, and a letter of support for roundabouts along 66<sup>th</sup> Street at Lyndale and Nicollet Avenues from the Richfield Chamber of Commerce was received.

Mr. Pearson stated that the Transportation Commission unanimously supported the recommendation of roundabouts along 66<sup>th</sup> Street at Nicollet Avenue, Lyndale Avenue and I-35W interchange with the addition of a public education element.

Mayor Goettel discussed roundabouts, including concerns that the design criteria was not as tried, trusted and long-term as in Europe, lack of adequate information brought to the Transportation Commission, the innovation of all-red signalization for pedestrian crossing, the Urban Land Institute's belief that the law of the road is pedestrian-friendly first; the configuration of the I-35W interchange ramps; and that bus stops are not being moved.

Mayor Goettel stated that her belief is pedestrian/bike/transit/vehicle as the order for transportation modes. She said she is not against roundabouts but that she is unable to find examples that make her feel comfortable with where they are proposed along 66<sup>th</sup> Street.

Council Member Fitzhenry stated that traffic does yield to the pedestrian at the 66<sup>th</sup> Street/Portland Avenue roundabout and that he has witnessed pedestrians crossing against the light and mid-block at signalized intersections.

Public Works Director Eastling stated that staff believes roundabouts provide a superior pedestrian safety environment with the rapid flashing crossing lights.

Mayor Goettel discussed having a full visual field of the roundabout instead of a landscaped center to block the view.

Transportation Engineer Pearson explained the U.S. design standard supports landscaping in the center of a roundabout to improve safety.

<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>
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The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:25 p.m.

Date Approved: March 10, 2015

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Debbie Goettel  
Mayor

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Cheryl Krumholz  
Executive Coordinator

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Steven L. Devich  
City Manager